

Region 2 Request for Applications for EPA 2003 Wetland Program Development Grants

◆ The summary below provides regional information for the ◆
2003 Wetland Program Development Grants Program
Statutory requirements and full details of the Wetland Program Development Grants
are noted in the guidelines found at
<http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/grantguidelines/>
and Federal Register Notice Volume 67, No. 165, Monday, August 26, 2002 entitled
FY03 Wetland Program Development Grant Guidelines

**All EPA Region 2 funding decisions follow the FY03
Wetland Program Development Grant Guidelines**
In order to be fully informed and able to submit a competitive application,
please review those guidelines

Background

EPA Region 2 is soliciting applications for Wetland Program Development Grants (WPDG). This is an announcement of the availability of fiscal year 2003 funds from EPA Region 2, Division of Environmental Planning and Protection, Water Programs Branch, Wetlands Protection Section. Wetland Program Development Grants are awarded under the authority of Section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act and the program is established in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 66.461, Wetlands Protection - State Development Grants, <http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/cfda/p66461.htm#i20>

EPA seeks to build the capacity of all levels of government to develop and implement effective programs for wetland protection and management. Wetland Program Development Grants provide states, tribes, local governments, interstate agencies, intertribal consortia, and universities that are chartered as part of state government an opportunity, through funding awards, to carry out projects to develop and refine, but not operate, comprehensive wetland programs. The Wetland Program Development Grants Project Database <http://yosemite.epa.gov/water/grant.nsf> provides project information for grants funded through this program since it began in 1990. It is periodically updated as regional annual reports become available.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance directs use of these grants to developing and refining wetland management programs by conducting or promoting the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution. The Clean Water Act defines wetlands as waters of the United States.

Eligibility

States, Tribes, local governments, interstate agencies, intertribal consortia, and universities that are chartered as part of state government in New York, New Jersey, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Territory of the Virgin Islands are eligible for EPA Region 2 WPDG program funds. In order to be eligible for WPDG funds, Tribes must be federally recognized, although "Treatment as a State" status is not a requirement. Intertribal consortia that meet the requirements of 40 CFR part 35.504 are eligible for direct funding. Interstate agency and intertribal consortia projects must be broad in scope and encompass more than one State, Tribe, or local government. Please see eligibility restrictions outlined in Appendix A of the national guidelines at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/grantguidelines/>

Assistance Considerations

EPA Region 2 receives a varying amount of WPDG funding each year. We are in receipt this fiscal year of approximately \$750,000. Therefore, individual applications should not exceed \$250,000. There is no application minimum.

WPDG guidelines <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/grantguidelines/>, section II *Program Priorities*, has identified three funding priorities. These are:

- 1) developing a comprehensive monitoring and assessment program,
- 2) improving the effectiveness of compensatory mitigation and,
- 3) refining the protection of vulnerable wetlands and aquatic resources.

Award recipients must provide a minimum **25% match** of the award's total project costs. The match requirement can be met with contributions from entities other than the award recipient. Other federal money cannot be used as the match for this grant program unless authorized by the statutes governing the award of the other Federal funds. Tribes can use funds provided under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Act to provide matching funds to the extent authorized by the Act and its implementing regulations.

Each grant project must be completed with the initial award of funds. Project periods can extend for more than one year.

Application

A complete application includes all items noted in the EPA Region 2 web page, *Grant Application Kit* <http://www.epa.gov/region02/grants/kit.htm>. Application forms can be printed from that web site or, applicants may request a copy of the application package from Kathleen Drake (see contacts table below). Applications may be subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs". The application package includes information and contacts for this process. For immediate assistance in the application process, please see the Grants Program Resource page at <http://www.epa.gov/region02/grants/resources.htm>. This includes links to a Grant Writing Tutorial page, Tips and Techniques for Grant Preparation page, and a Frequently Asked Questions page. Please contact Kathleen Drake (see contacts table below) with any questions.

Work plan requirements are noted in the national guidelines, Section V. *Application Procedures*. Completed grant applications with original signatures must be received by Roch Baamonde, Chief of the Grants and Contracts Administration Branch (see contacts table below), post marked no later than January 31, 2003. The Wetlands Protection Section of the Water Programs Branch will be the point of contact for the Wetland Program Development Grants in EPA Region 2 (New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands).

If you would like to receive a *Request for Application* notification for next year's 2004 Wetland Program Development Grants program, please forward your e-mail address and contact information to Drake.Kathleen@epa.gov. Those notifications will be issued on or about October 2003.

CONTACT	SUBMIT 2 copies	SUBMIT
With requests for: ▶ Information ▶ Application Package ▶ Quality Assurance Guidance	Work Plans Post marked no later than JANUARY 31, 2003	Complete Applications Post marked no later than JANUARY 31, 2003
Kathleen Drake (212) 637-3817 Drake.Kathleen@epa.gov Wetlands Protection Section EPA Region 2 290 Broadway New York, NY 10007-1866	Daniel Montella, Chief (212) 637-3801 Montella.Daniel@epa.gov Wetlands Protection Section EPA Region 2 290 Broadway New York, NY 10007-1866	Roch Baamonde, Chief (212) 637-3401 Baamonde.Roch@epa.gov Grants and Contracts Management Branch EPA Region 2 290 Broadway New York, NY 10007-1866

Award Process in Region 2



Award decisions are competitive, as noted in the national guidelines. A panel of three to five EPA Region 2 employees will review and rank applications based on the Section IV. *Selection Criteria* in the national guidelines <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/grantguidelines/>. A rating of 0 to 5 will be applied to each of the selection criteria and a sum of ratings will be tallied. As also noted in the national guidelines, the criteria addressing success of previous projects obviously pertains to prior grant recipients. This criteria does **not** add extra points in the rating process for prior grant recipients to give an automatic advantage over new applicants. The criteria does, in cases of inadequate and inappropriate prior grant performance, lower an applicant's rating. The criteria allows consideration of poor past performance in the evaluation of current grant applications.

Funding decisions will be based on the ranking of the application (based on the rating sum) and the relative funding requests we receive in the context of this fiscal year 2003 Region 2 WPDG monies. Those applications receiving the highest ranking will be recommended to the Regional Administrator to receive funding award. When all funding decisions are complete, a grant award notification will be issued to recipients. Non-award notification will be issued to all participants that did not receive award this fiscal year.

Depending upon work plan proposals, recipients may be required to submit a Quality Assurance Project Plan which can follow, as per the applicant's choice, either EPA Region 2 guidance or Headquarters guidance, *EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans EPA QA/R-5* <http://www.epa.gov/quality1/qs-docs/r5-final.pdf>. Quality assurance/quality control requirements apply to the collection of environmental data. Environmental data are any measurements or information that describe environmental processes, location, conditions, ecological or health effects and consequences, or the performance of environmental technology. Environmental data include information collected directly from measurements, produced from models, and compiled from other sources such as data bases or literature. QA/QC components will require coordination with the EPA Region 2 offices. Please request a copy of the Region 2 Quality Assurance Project Plan guidance from Kathleen Drake.

AWARD PROCESS

SCHEDULE

Receipt of complete application, work plan and budget	Post marked no later than January 31, 2003
Completed EPA Region 2 review /ranking	March 15, 2003
 Funding decision	April 15, 2003
 Grant award	Based on release of funds; no later than August 15, 2003